

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SECTO 08067 191445Z
ACTION PA-02

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O 191415Z JUL 78 ZFF6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LEEDS
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTO 08067

DEPT PASS ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN POSTS IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PRESS STATEMENT - JULY 19

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT THAT SECRETARY INTENDS TO MAKE AT PRESS CONFERENCE NEAR LEEDS CASTLE AFTERNOON JULY 19 AT CONCLUSION OF LEEDS CASTLE TALKS AMONG FOREIGN MINISTERS OF EGYPT, ISRAEL AND U.S.:

AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S INVITATION AND WITH THE GENEROUS COOPERATION OF THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND I HAVE HELD TALKS SINCE MONDAY EVENING AT LEEDS CASTLE. OUR PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE ISSUES RELATING TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, AND TO LAY A BASIS FOR THE EARLY CONTINUATION OF NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

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DURING OUR TWO DAYS AT LEEDS CASTLE, THE THREE DELEGATIONS MET TOGETHER IN AN INFORMAL SETTING. THE TWO SIDES EXPLORED IN DEPT THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES AND CLARIFIED FOR EACH OTHER THEIR RESPECTIVE PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. THESE WERE THE MOST CANDID AND PROBING DISCUSSIONS I HAVE HEARD BETWEEN THEM. I ALSO HELD SEVERAL BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH EACH OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS.

MAJOR DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES. THERE IS A LOT OF HARD WORK AHEAD. COMMON ELEMENTS IN THEIR APPROACHES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

I BELIEVE EGYPT AND ISRAEL REMAIN FULLY COMMITTED TO ESTABLISHING A GENUINE PEACE, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO HELP THEM IN THAT EFFORT. THE PARTIES WILL BE REPORTING TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. THE GOVERNMENTS WILL BE STUDYING THESE REPORTS. I ANTICIPATE THERE WILL BE FURTHER MEETINGS WHEN I GO TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. IN THE MEANTIME, I HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE ATHERTON TO GO TO THE AREA TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE PARTIES AND TO PARTICIPATE, AS THEY MIGHT FIND USEFUL, IN PREPARATIONS FOR FURTHER MEETINGS.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS JOIN ME IN EXPRESSING OUR THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR THE GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO US AND OUR DELEGATIONS AT LEEDS CASTLE.

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTO 8067 NOT PASSED TO THE ABOVE ADDEES.

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